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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, June 5, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we praise You that it is Your will to give good things to those who ask You. You give strength and power to Your people when we seek You above anything else. You guide the humble and teach them Your way. Help us to humble ourselves as we begin this day so that there will be no need for life to humiliate us because of any vestige of arrogance in us. We ask for the true humility of total dependence on You.

You know what we need before we ask You, and yet, encourage us to seek, knock, and ask in our prayers. When we truly seek You and really desire Your will, You do guide us in what to ask. We ask for Your indwelling Spirit to empower us.

Our day is filled with challenges and decisions beyond our own knowledge and experience. We dare not press ahead on our own resources. In the quiet of this magnificent moment of conversation with You we commit this day. We want to live it to Your glory. We ask for the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit for the decisions of this day.

Make us maximum by Your Spirit for the demanding responsibilities and relationships of this day. We say with the Psalmist, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation!"—Psalm 68:19. Lord, anoint our minds with the benefits of vision and discernment. Thank You in advance for these blessings. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved, and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 9:45 a.m. At 9:45, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 652, the telecommunications bill.

Under the order, the Senate will vote on the motion to table the Dorgan amendment at 12:30 today. Following that vote, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. Also, Senators should be reminded that under the provisions of rule XXII, Members have until 1 p.m. today to file first-degree amendments.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 9:45 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for 5 minutes each.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I only need about 10 minutes for my remarks. Would the distinguished Senator from Wyoming be using more than 5 minutes? If not, I will be glad to yield and let him proceed ahead of me.

Mr. THOMAS. I expect to use 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may follow the Senator from Wyoming and that I may proceed for 10 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object. I wonder if we can amend that so that I can have 7 minutes following the Senator from West Virginia in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). Will the Senator from West Virginia amend his request?

Mr. THURMOND. Reserving the right to object. I would like 5 minutes following the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from West Virginia amend his request?

Mr. BYRD. Yes, I so amend it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SETTING PRIORITIES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, let me move quickly into what I thought might be appropriate. I, of course, spent my time at home during the Memorial Day recess, and I returned again to Wyoming this weekend. I would just like to comment very briefly on my impression of what we are doing here, after having been here nearly 6 months, and the impression that I received from those at home.

First of all, let me say that I think there is an anxiousness in the electorate for the Congress to move forward. I wish, for example, and I want to just observe things as they occurred in 6 months from some previous experiences in the House.

It seems to me we have a difficulty in setting priorities. It is too bad. There are some things surely most Members would agree are more important than others. It would seem we really do not have a set of priorities. I wish we could do that. Priorities on issues are fairly well-defined in the country, not certainly so well-defined here.

It seems to me we ought to be able to manage time better than we do. Time, after all, is the resource that we have here, and certainly we consume too much doing many things. Time becomes sort of a political strategy, not particularly useful in debate, but rather being used to posture ourselves one way or the other.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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